

parent containing membrane slip out, the margin of the oral orifice still remaining attached at one side to the skin; so that we have the whole animal, tentacula, teeth and all, minus the skin and muscular bands, protruded in their natural and relative position. In fact it is just as if the anatomist ran his knife round the neck and slipped off the skin, without any disturbance of the other parts. Sir J. Dalyell says he has observed the entire visceral apparatus renewed within three or four months.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*On the Classification of Serpents.* By M. C. DUMÉRIL.

IN a memoir with this title, read before the Academy of Sciences, M. Duméril proposes an arrangement of the *Ophidia*, of which the following is a tabular view:—

### Third Order of Reptiles.—OPHIDIA.

*Char.* Body elongate, slender, destitute of feet or lateral fins; mouth furnished with pointed, recurved teeth; branches of the lower jaw disunited, longer than the skull; head with a single rounded condyle, with neither a distinct neck, nor an external ear or auditory conduits; eyes without moveable eyelids; skin extensible, covered with a caducous epidermis.

#### SUBORDERS.

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| I. Teeth in only one of the jaws, either the upper or lower | 1. <i>Opiterodontes</i> . |
| II. Teeth in both jaws.                                     |                           |
| A. Teeth all smooth, not furrowed .....                     | 2. <i>Aglyphodontes</i> . |
| B. Some of the teeth furrowed.                              |                           |
| a. Posterior teeth longer and furrowed.....                 | 3. <i>Opisthoglyphæ</i> . |
| b. Anterior teeth furrowed, isolated, perforated            | 5. <i>Solenoglyphæ</i> .  |
| c. _____, followed by smooth                                |                           |
| teeth .....   | 4. <i>Proteroglyphæ</i> . |

The first of these suborders corresponds with that named *Scolecophides* by MM. Duméril and Bibron, in their work on Reptiles in the 'Suites à Buffon'; the second to the *Azémiophides* of the same authors; the third to their *Aphobérophides*; the fourth to their *Apistophides*; and the fifth to their *Thanatophides*.—*Comptes Rendus*, Nov. 2, 1852, p. 621.

*On the Influence of Coal Gas upon Vegetation.* By G. H. ULEX.

The introduction of lighting by gas upon the promenades of Ham-  
burgh has exhibited the injurious influence of coal-gas upon vegetation  
in a very vexations manner. The gas-pipes are placed, at a depth of  
three feet, in the middle of avenues 30 feet wide, planted principally  
with elms, but with a few lime-trees. Since its introduction, a great  
number of trees, previously healthy and vigorous, have quickly per-  
ished. The alburnum becomes rotten, the bark detached, and the  
tree dies in a few days, without any alteration taking place in the  
wood. Wherever this malady appeared, the roots were found to be  
decomposed, and the soil impregnated with the odour of coal-gas,